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CLAIMS:

1. A dispensing apparatus comprising a housing and a metering tube, said metering tube having an opening to the interior thereof and said housing having a chamber therein for storing medicament;
said metering tube being extendable to a dispensing position, and retractable to a filling position;
wherein said opening is in communication with said chamber when said metering tube is in said filling position.
2. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a piston for drawing medicament into said metering tube and expelling medicament from said metering tube.
3. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the length of the piston stroke is fixed.
4. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3 wherein at least one member is provided on said metering tube to limit the displacement of the piston in at least one direction.
5. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4 wherein the piston is provided inside said metering tube.
6. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein said piston is moveable with said metering tube.
7. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein at least one stop is provided to limit the displacement of the metering tube.

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8. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the dispensing apparatus is provided in a hand-held inhaler for oral delivery of medicament.

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9. Dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further comprising apparatus for delivering the dispensed medicament as an atomised mist.

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10. A method of operating dispensing apparatus comprising a housing and a metering tube, the housing having a chamber and medicament being provided in said chamber, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

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(a) retracting said metering tube to a filling position;

(b) drawing medicament into said metering tube from said chamber;

(c) extending said metering tube to a dispensing position; and

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(d) expelling medicament from said metering tube.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein said apparatus further comprises a piston, wherein movement of the piston in a first direction draws medicament into the metering tube in accordance with step (b), and movement of the piston in a second direction expels medicament from the metering tube in accordance with step (d).

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12. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the piston and the metering tube are moved together during steps (a) and (c).

35 13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12 wherein the medicament is dispensed from the metering tube to an atomising apparatus and the method further

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comprises the step(s) of atomising the medicament and delivering it as an atomised mist.

5 14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the metering tube is retracted before the medicament is atomised.

10 15. A method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein the dispensing apparatus is provided in a hand-held inhaler for oral delivery of medicament.

16. Dispensing apparatus substantially as described herein with reference to the attached Figures.

15 17. A method of using dispensing apparatus substantially as described herein with reference to the attached Figures.